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Conservation Commission Minutes 04/25/2013

Arlington Conservation Commission
 Minutes
 April 25, 2013

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Charles Tirone, Eileen Coleman, Curt Connors, Chris Naylor, and David White of the Commission. Catherine Garnett and Michelle Durocher, of the Commission, were not present. Also present was Bruce Whelittle, Victor Santana, Allen Reedy, Eric Ammondson and Lt. Brendan Kiernan of the Arlington Police Department.

7:45 pm – Commission Business:

Connors/Coleman motioned to approve the 4/4 **minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Beckwith drafted a letter to a resident regarding dumping at the **Forest St** conservation land. Mr. Stevens edited it and directed Ms. Beckwith to send it out.

The two neighbors surrounding the **Hemlock St** conservation land are going to discuss the needs of the parcel.

Mr. Naylor submitted photographs taken this day of 20 trees cut along Mill Brook behind **Penzey's Spice shop**. The Commission directed Ms. Beckwith to draft an enforcement letter to the property owners.

Mr. Stevens reported that Ann Leroyer asked the Conservation Commission to cosponsor a program regarding bird conservation and sustainable agriculture, on May 7th, 7-9pm at Town Hall. White/Naylor motioned to cosponsor the event; motion passed unanimously.

8pm – **Discussion**: work on Community Safety Building at Cookes Hollow

Mr. Tirone and Ms. Garnet of the Commission took photos of the staging area at the Community Safety Building that was taking place partially within Cookes Hollow park land, all within the Buffer Zone and Riverfront Area of Mill Brook. This work has no permit from the Conservation Commission. The construction staging area is for the project renovating the exterior of the building.

Mr. Ammondson, representing the project, presented a plan sheet of the staging area. Mr. Tirone stated that the catch basin near to the soil stockpile didn't appear to be threatened by soil washing into it. The stockpile now is surrounded by haybales.

Mr. Stevens suggested also putting a tarp on the soil pile. The area beyond the snow fence has been reseeded and the area should be watered so that the grass will grow.

The project could take until August to complete. The Commission asked what species of shrubs are being planted when the work is complete. Mr. Ammondson will forward that information to the Commission.

It was also suggested that DPW could clean the catch basin when the project is completed.

The construction trailer has been removed from the park area and the staging area pulled back so it is no longer within Cookes Hollow but only on the property of the Public Safety Building. The port-o-potty will remain in this area. The Commission would like to see a tool washing area with drainage controls. Mr. Tirone also asked that the work line, now demarked by snow fence, be maintained at the current location, and not get any closer to the waterway. The

entire staging area should also be reseeded when the work is completed, and the Town should schedule a working session with the Commission when plans for Phase 2 (interior) renovations of the building have been developed

White/Coleman motioned to issue an enforcement order to include the above conditions for compliance; motion passed by a vote of 5-1. Mr. Connors voted in opposition, agreeing with the need for an enforcement order but objecting that the Commission did not also require the filing of a permit application for past and current work.

8:15pm – **Discussion:** National Grid gas line under Mystic St. near Mill Brook

Mr. Santana presented the work to install gas lines under the roadway but over Mill Brook. The Commission discussed the issue of the exemption from filing for utilities. Mr. Stevens maintained that the pipe sizes would have to stay the same in order to comply with this exemption and they did not.

Mr. Santana said he would report this back to the consultant who can draft the permit.

Commission Business (cont.)

Mr. Tirone also reported on the **Arlington Catholic playing field** project. He found that the back corner of the property is entirely mulched and there is a stone path. According to the previous existing conditions plan, three large trees were cut down, one 12 inch, and two 18 inch, Norway Maples. No pathways are shown on the plans approved by the Commission. The Commission directed Ms. Beckwith to issue a Notice of Noncompliance to the owners on Friday.

Mr. Stevens asked the Commission to direct Ms. Durocher on whether it's permissible to enter the wetland at **McLennan Park** to remove trash. The Commission said that it was permissible as long as its done carefully, by hand (don't get stuck in the mud) and that large items might be left alone as their removal is probably going to cause more harm than good.

Mr. Stevens reported that **Article 11** that was submitted by Mr. Jamison did not pass Town Meeting.

Mr. Tirone reported that lots of vegetation was cleared from **Kelwyn Manor park** and asked if there was a permit for this work. Ms. Beckwith could not recall the details of a permit, or if one was still in effect but she will inspect the records and report back to the Commission.

The Commission is deeply grateful that Ms. Coleman is going to **volunteer** to work in the Commission's Office for a few hours each week. The Commission can help to determine the most dire items for her to attend to. Ms. Beckwith suggested doing coordination work for the Arlington Land Stewards or records organization of the Conservation Library.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator